

**State of New Mexico  
Corrections Department**

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**"We commit to the safety and well-being of the people of New Mexico by doing the right thing, always."**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Outlets Sent – Statewide Media Release**

**Reference: New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) Officer's Assaulted.**

**Date of Release: February 7, 2013**

**Subject(s): Inmate Thomas Tafoya, NMCD #: 68028. Inmate Tafoya has convictions for Child Abuse, (Not Great Bodily Harm or Death), Shooting at or from a Motor Vehicle (Not Great Bodily Harm), Receipt, Transport, Possession of a Firearm by a Felon, and Possession of a Controlled Substance.**

**Details:**

On February 7, 2013, at approximately 1800 hours, two Correctional Officers assigned to the Southern New Mexico Correctional Facility were assaulted. Based on suspicious circumstances, the officers conducted a search of Inmate Thomas Tafoya's cell. Inmate Tafoya, pursuant to standard operating procedures, was directed to wait outside of the cell while the officers conducted the search.

Upon completion of the search, the officers exited Inmate Tafoya's cell. When the officers came out of the cell, Inmate Tafoya attacked the officers. Inmate Tafoya struck one of the officers with a closed fist and was highly combative as the officer attempted to gain control over Inmate Tafoya. The officers relied on their training and experience to quickly resolve the situation and take Inmate Tafoya into custody.

The officers received minor injuries and were evaluated at the facility. Inmate Tafoya was not injured. The case has been referred to the New Mexico State Police for criminal prosecution. For further information on the criminal investigation, please contact the New Mexico State Police.

Follow-up inquiries should be directed to **Deputy Director of Adult Prisons Anthony Romero**. **Deputy Director Romero** may be contacted telephonically at **(505) 660-8292** and or email at **anthonyromero1@state.nm.us**. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Myers

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